

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 12, Summer 2006

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

www.iskconirm.com

Official IRM v GBC debate:

Academic publishing report

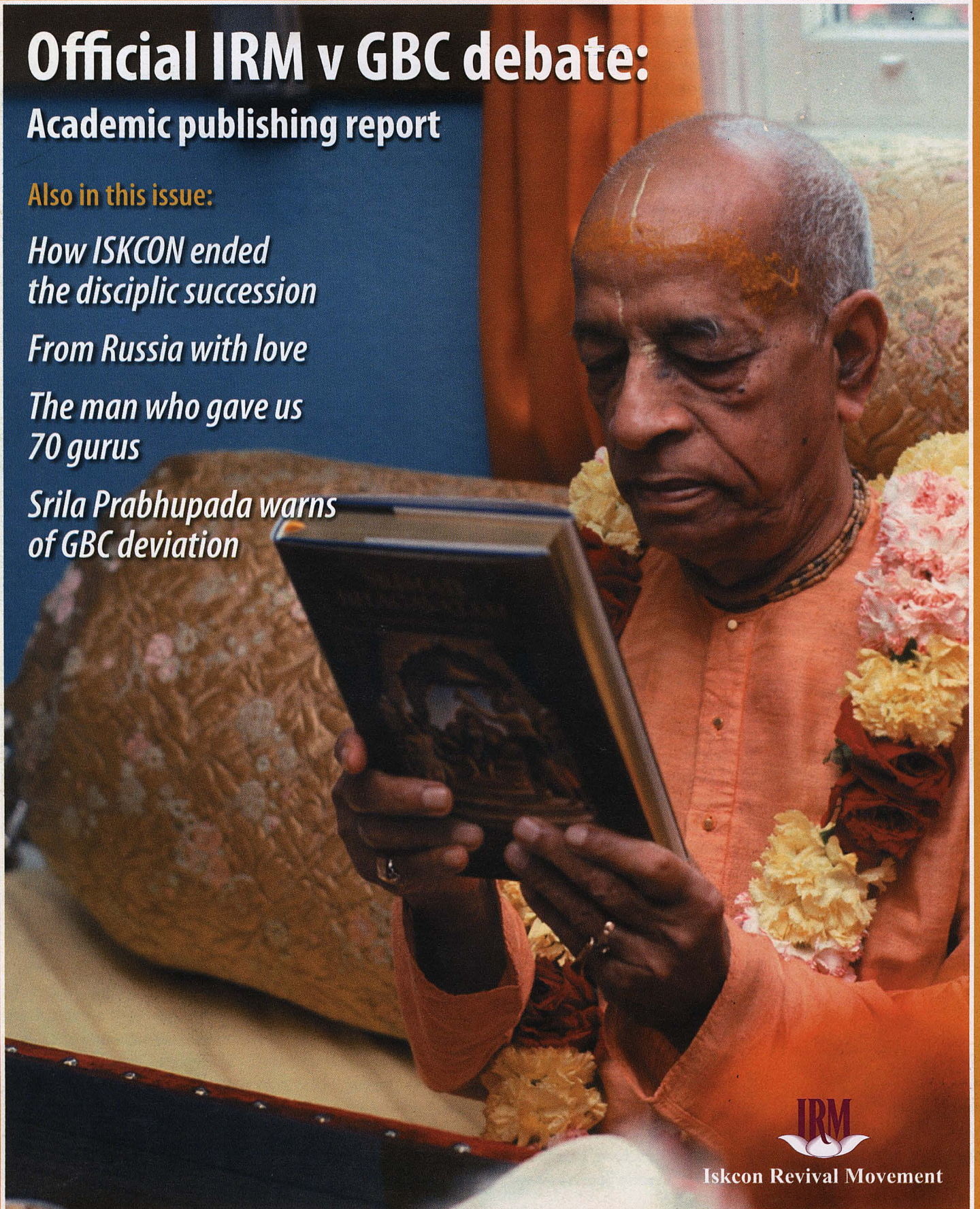
Also in this issue:

*How ISKCON ended
the disciplic succession*

From Russia with love

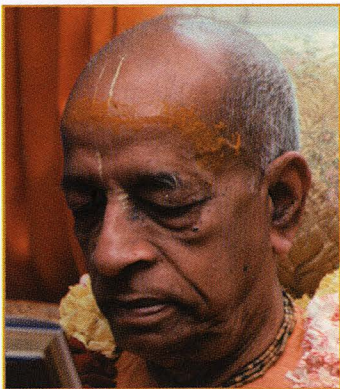
*The man who gave us
70 gurus*

*Srila Prabhupada warns
of GBC deviation*



Iskcon Revival Movement

The meaning of preaching



BACK TO PRABHUPADA
Published quarterly

Editor: Krishnakant
Deputy Editor: Yaduraja dasa
Design: Evoke Media Ltd., UK

Founded under the inspiration of
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acarya,
International Society for Krishna
Consciousness (ISKCON)

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Welcome to issue 12 of *Back To Prabhupada*. In this issue you will find news of some exciting developments regarding the IRM's progress in academic circles. As we highlight on page 15, the IRM is routinely accepted as the official voice representing reform and revival in ISKCON. You will note that yet again we have had to add an extra page of letters in order to play "catch-up" with the huge backlog of correspondence we have received!

A common criticism levelled by ISKCON gurus and their followers against the IRM is: *"The IRM does no preaching and only criticises, what good is this?"*

Though on the surface it may sound like there is merit to the charge, please consider the following:

1) By criticising us for criticising, the charge is guilty of the very thing we are accused of, and therefore is self-contradictory. It is defeated as soon as it is made.

2) However, let us assume for sake of argument that the charge is correct. Then we should ask if all the IRM does is "criticise", is the criticism CORRECT and TRUTHFUL? To this the answer must be "yes", because if our criticism was wrong, then we would not be criticised simply for criticising, but for actually telling LIES. Thus, whenever we are criticised for "only criticising", this is another way of saying:

"I cannot criticise WHAT you say, therefore I will criticise you FOR saying it!" Therefore the charge now has to be amended to: *"IRM does no preaching and only criticises truthfully, what good is this?"*

3) Next we must ask if truthful criticism has any value. Well on further examination, we find that *preaching* is nothing but *constructive* criticism: e.g. *Maya* bad – but Krishna good. And we are similarly criticising constructively: e.g. cheating gurus bad – Srila

Prabhupada good. So then the charge again must be amended to: *"IRM only preaches 'controversy'. Better they preach by distributing books only."*

4) To see the accuracy of this latest amended charge, let us consider a world free of this "criticism" of the deviation of ISKCON. There exists no IRM. Instead, everybody is engaged blissfully in distributing Srila Prabhupada's books and doing nothing else. Let's see what would happen in this non-IRM preaching world:

Someone gets a *Bhagavad-gita*, which is our main book, and the first thing they read, right in the second paragraph of the Preface is:

"Our Krishna consciousness movement is genuine, historically authorized, natural and transcendental due to its being based on Bhagavad-Gita As It Is. It is gradually becoming the most popular movement in the entire world, especially amongst the younger generation. It is becoming more and more interesting to the older generation also. Older gentlemen are becoming interested, so much so that the fathers and grandfathers of my disciples are encouraging us by becoming life members of our great society, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness."
(Preface, *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada).

So before they even begin to read the book, they read that ISKCON is "genuine", "authorised", "transcendental", and a "great society". The first thing I would want to do after reading this, is to seek out this "great society" ISKCON, promoted as it is by Srila Prabhupada himself, which is easy to do even if there are no contact details for ISKCON in the book. Having then come into contact with ISKCON, which has been completely endorsed by Srila Prabhupada, I will surrender my

life fully. Only in doing so I will get cheated by bogus gurus, have my life ruined, and tragically BLAME SRILA PRABHUPADA for this, because HE is the one who directed us to ISKCON by telling us that it is completely bona fide, and consequently we will give up Krishna consciousness altogether – which sadly has been the fate of many. And this is just the second paragraph of the Preface. The *more* they read, and the *more* books we distribute, the *more* the above scenario will be repeated. Now it will be argued that some people will not contact ISKCON. Yes, but this will be *despite* the books, not because of them. Srila Prabhupada promotes ISKCON throughout his books – that was part of the purpose of the books, and indeed it says "Founder-Acarya of ISKCON" just on every cover. Therefore, after reading a book, to seek out ISKCON will be the *default* position. And remember, there is no BTP, no TFO, no IRM, because this is a 'criticism-free' world. So immediately we come to the crux of our dilemma. If ISKCON is deviating, you cannot promote it, nor can you ignore it, you have to expose and fix it.

And right now there is no one else on the planet dedicated full-time to this task of preaching the truth about Srila Prabhupada and the great society he founded, ISKCON. **So this preaching has to go hand-in-hand with book distribution**, otherwise people may unwittingly be taken away from Srila Prabhupada, rather than be brought to his lotus feet.

Please feel free to write to me at the following address if you have any questions, criticisms or comments: irm@iskconirm.com. We welcome all correspondence. Thank you and Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,
Krishnakant



Letters to the editor

“Dear Prabhus, please accept my humble obeisances and deepest gratitude for the wonderful work you are doing. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. My partner (a 30 year Prabhupada disciple) is so traumatized by his ISKCON experiences that he asked me to write on his behalf, and request you to kindly print this letter in your next BTP. Formerly a front line preacher for many years, he has been severely cheated and emotionally abused by the ISKCON regime. A good friend of his and devotee was physically attacked on the grounds of BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR by Vipramukhya (EX-SANNYASI AND EX-TEMPLE PRESIDENT THERE) because they “DARED” to speak up & disagree. My partner, who wants his name withheld, is now suffering from what he calls P.T.I.S. (POST TRAUMATIC ISKCON SYNDROME). He left the ISKCON mainstream in 1995 and due to unavoidable economic necessities was compelled to search for employment and, most unfortunately for a full-time preacher, forced to subsequently rejoin the same mundane work force he thought he’d left behind over 30 years ago. He and I have been together for over 3 years now, and I love him dearly. We have a proper altar in our home and he has told me many wonderful things about Srila Prabhupada whom we both feel is very prominent in our lives. We both worship Sri Sri Gaura-Nitai daily, and our lives are becoming increasingly peaceful. My partner has told me how he lost all faith in his so-called Godbrothers many years ago but was too frightened to speak out. Eventually, he was forced out by persons of an artful and designing nature, most of whom either fell away completely or are still trying to systematically usurp Srila Prabhupada’s movement for their own personal gain. He, although steadily improving, is sometimes

subject to fits of rage when he recalls how he was deceived and even physically threatened on occasion. He gave his whole life to a society which eats its young. Yet, despite of this, he is through and through a Prabhupada disciple in every way. My partner almost never visits any ISKCON temples except on rare occasions like Janmastami and Vyasa Puja. Apart from that our home is our temple. My partner would like very much to assist you but for his fear of being subject to another ISKCON barrage. He calls it the world famous ISKCON PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT SURPRISE ATTACK to which he has been subject many times, especially by overbearing personalities like Ravindra Svarup and Dhanurdhara Swami. There are many more too numerous to mention. I think the final straw for him was when Harikesa absconded with the girl and the money. He told me that on the day he found out that Srila Prabhupada left the planet, he knew there would be total eventual chaos. It’s the same old story. As long as my partner was distributing books and in some way collecting money for the regime, he was accepted. When these activities, for whatever reason, were interrupted, he was severely chastised, abused and humiliated. Now he just hates them, all the bogus self-aggrandizing gurus, temple presidents, etc. etc. Unfortunately but understandably, his mood is not one of reconciliation but rather retaliation. He wants to take them down and take them down hard, by exposing their Kali-cela mentality to the world. He wants to know how he can help you and still remain completely anonymous. Truly yours.”

- Lesley Bell, London, UK

“Thanks for the excellent insights in your Back To Prabhupada magazine issue # 9. Just like the police have to spend so much time studying the criminal mind you

have done your homework studying the criminal “guru” hoaxers. A thankless task, no doubt. But you have my thanks and that of many of your godbrothers and godsisters. All Glories To Srila Prabhupada!”

- Janardana Das, Chico, California, USA

“Please continue this valuable service. Srila Prabhupada is the only Spiritual Master all others are bogus. Chant Hare Krsna!”

- Advaita Das, Cambridge, New Zealand

“No need of living guru, magazines are in itself a nuclear bomb of Srila Prabhupada. Hare Krsna.”

- Shashank Raj, Bihar, India

“I must write to thank you for the copy of BTP. At first I gave only a cursory glance, the poison so deep and damage so bad I had turned from the fight, well that’s not entirely true. I was very unpopular in California for my outspoken words to devotees who in any way try to minimize Srila Prabhupada. I have taken heart from seriously reading BTP. I will do more to see that Srila Prabhupada will succeed.”

- BJ Paulick, London, UK

“Hare Krishna. Thank you for your wonderful service.”

- Andrena Sampat, New York, USA

“Thank you for the truth!”

- Arjuna Ananda, California, USA

“My name is Revati-prana-natha dasa. I received The Final Order and also BTP 5,6,7, I have not received number 8 yet and would very much like it. I want to be totally informed please. Thank you for time and service to Srila Prabhupada. I received initiation from His Divine Grace in 1973. He saved my life. The profound effects of his work is yet to be perceived. Hare Krsna!!! Please continue!!! Thank you so much!!! Jai Prabhupada.”

- Revati-prana-natha Das, Edmonton, Canada

“I love and appreciate the magazine. Very best.”

- Larry Camp, Ohio, USA

“I’m new to this movement...but from what I’ve read I think it’s good idea to go back to the way it was

when Prabhupada was still in this material world...having the initiations done in his name.”

- Tom Nesheim, Wisconsin, USA

“An imposter guru is not a guru. How can iron become gold? The genuine guru is Krsna’s representative and he speaks about Krsna and nothing else. The genuine guru is he who has no interest in materialistic life. He is after Krsna only. That is one of the tests of a genuine guru. I thank you very much to your wonderful effort for IRM.”

- Christian D Dikeocha, Daura Katsina State, Nigeria

“Spread the truth globally.”

- Henry Haribans, Richards Bay, South Africa

“Thank you - how can I help? Lord - send a revival!”

- Bhakta John H Oleksy, Missouri, USA

“I hope this revival movement will be successful because we all need a change.”

- Giuliano Piga, Milan, Italy

“Thank you for great service to Srila Prabhupada....and for exposing all the hoaxes.”

- Bhakta John, ISKCON New Vrindavana, Moundsville, USA

“I distributed BTP 8 to all the devotees here. It’s a wonderful magazine. I think it’s the best BTP issue yet! Thanks again and again.”

- Suci Suta Dasa, Kelang, Malaysia

“I received your book The Final Order, and to me it’s very important. Sorry, my English is not very good but I try to understand. Here in Brazil we have a lot of people (180 million) and have a lot of Hare Krishna centers, temples and farms. A lot of acharya-deva’s (Hridayananda Goswami) followers don’t know about the Guru hoax, they need to know that, and you must translate it into the Portuguese language; it is very important and then send it to all Hare Krishna temples here. Because after I know the Guru hoax my life changed, and you can open the eyes of a lot of people. I would like to make distribution of the Guru

Letters to the editor *(continued from page 3)*

Hoax but I have my limitations, I don't have computer at home. I like to help in that. Best regards."

- Pablo Massey, Sao Paulo, Brazil

"Thanks! Jaya Prabhupada!"

- Tara Saryamani and Jagatkarta Das, Arkansas, USA

"Thanks for the BTP magazine. Correct information regarding so-called neo-gurus. Joined Iskcon in 1994. Thanks to Lord Krsna and guru Prabhupada, no guru otherwise accepted."

- Dr VP Sharma, Lucknow, India

"IRM is doing a fine job. Excellent work. Please send me for research copies back/past copies of BTP magazine. This is very crucial, since there are certain allegations, etc, that I will like to clarify. This is a very urgent matter."

- Pramesh Ramautar, Durban, South Africa

"To Respected Krishnakant, I truly enjoy reading/study of devotional literature of Hare Krsna movement (Iskcon) and really feel happiness and contentment. This further enlightens my soul for purity, truthfulness and chanting of Hare Krishna with great pleasure in my daily life. Hare Krishna!"

- Om Prakash, Livingston, UK

"Thanks for sending me a copy of Back to Prabhupada. I read this book and it cleared my confusions. Sir, please send me a copy of The Final Order. Thank You."

- Ambika Verma, Assam, India

"Sri Krishnakant ji (the Editor of BTP- IRM). At the out set kindly accept my deepest respects for you, for you have taken up a very holy job of ISKCON REVIVAL MOVEMENT, which is now and quite for some years a drastic need. Just words are not enough to appreciate the people behind you in support of your holy efforts, in bringing out the magazine BACK TO PRABHUPADA. Of course I have come across the Magazine (Issue 8, Summer 2005) only today, which made me to feel that there are a few real humans who are worried about wrongdoings, and desiring to bring in constructive reforms,

and it is indeed wonderful. A little time ago I took very active part in working towards the direction of your interest. Whereas...ALAS! I lacked a live consistent support and was to keep quite eagerly waiting for things to happen in favour of my / your interest by itself. Your magazine truly rendered a soothing effect to my dormant painful feelings. Maybe in due course my contribution be of some use towards achieving our legitimate goal, provided you thoroughly understand of my actual quality. I only look forward things to happen to serve the interests of Srila Prabhupada, whether I or some others serve for the cause, tirelessly and achieve the goal of IRM. As a matter fact I am not an initiated devotee of ISKCON by any of these so called Gurus. I am only an admirer of Srila Prabhupada, and hence a Life Patron Member of ISKCON (that too since July 2001). I will be pleased if you could send me ALL THE BACK COPIES of BTP and any other relevant literature you released in connection with the context, so that I once again awake and raise up to serve for the cause to the best of my abilities & limited knowledge. I would very gladly accept to pay any charges you levy upon for the materials and forwarding expenses to my mailing address."

- U. Prabhakar, Tirupati, India

"Srila Prabhupada's instructions should always be followed, never changed to suit the times, or interpreted differently. When Srila Prabhupada came to the U.S. to teach about Sri Krsna he brought all those who listened a great gift that should always be treasured and unchanged."

- Donna Bekiarian-Spora, North Carolina, USA

"I received Back To Prabhupada no 8. Truly, I am blessed and honoured to be with IRM and the eternal journey of 'defeating tyranny in the realm of thought'."

- GP Doraisamy Govindsamy, Penang, Malaysia

"I am really enlightened by this magazine."

- Padma Gopi Devi Dasi, Kelang, Malaysia

"BTP is nice surprise for me, I've got it from my Czech friend who does not speak English. TFO I have printed from your website, but would like to have it as a bit more 'cultured edition'. I like it and appreciate it. If it's all true, then God bless you. Hare Krishna."

- Gangarama Das, Serra, Spain

"Revival is the only way to save Iskcon. It is quite difficult also to break the barriers."

- Ravindra Natha Singhal, Lucknow, India

"By sending this IRM magazine worldwide, you are doing a great service to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Sri Krsna. Hare Krishna! Thank you."

- Vasudevan, Klang, Malaysia

"Cash control must be implemented so that similar cases do not happen in future."

- Dr Sushil K Das Gupta, London, UK

"If ISKCON goes the way it is going then it might disappear and become of no significance."

- M. Singh Chuttoo, London, UK

"Srila Prabhupada's amazing achievement and worldwide endeavour in setting up the Hare Krsna movement means that we all must do what we can to regain the movement from these hi-jackers, for and in the name of Srila Prabhupada."

- William Evans, St Helens, UK

"BTP editor Krishnakant is expert at successfully defeating the GBC."

- Svarupa Damodara Das, Ireland

"Thanks for the free copy of BTP. The BTP is really an eye opener. I strongly feel the Iskcon should be run as Srila Prabhupada has directed in The Final Order. This is the ONLY solution to all the problems in Iskcon. Right now Iskcon is in a critical mess and only Krishna knows when Iskcon will go 'Back To Prabhupada'. I would like to know the truth, please send me a copy of TFO and subscription to BTP. In the

end I would like to say "FANTASTIC SERVICE prabhuh". Without IRM we would have been seriously misguided by Iskcon, from guru hoax to book changes. Thanks a lot. You prabhuh are doing an excellent service to Srila Prabhupada. May Lord Krishna bestow upon you further advancement in devotional service. Please let me know how can I help. Hare Krishna."

- Sarang, New Delhi, India

"I am poor financially but would love to hear the true message of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Prabhupada, eternal glories to his service to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's sankirtan mission for the salvation of those of us struggling through Kali Yuga. All blessings upon the compassionate great soul whose sacrifice first opened my eyes from the darkness of ignorance. I am mortified and devastated at the events which have transpired following his passing. Please send me a copy of this book."

- Adrian Auler, Florida, USA

"Hare Krsna. Dear Prabhuh, thank you very much for BTP magazine. I was born in Iskcon, my father is Prabhupada disciple. Prabhupada is soul of Iskcon. Jai Srila Prabhupada."

- Radhanatha Das, Vrindavana, India

"Jai Srila Prabhupada. Long live IRM - success is yours. His Divine Grace, spiritual master of the whole universe, teachings should be taken 'AS IT IS- WHERE IT IS'. No one has the right to interpret or change his dictums. Only fools and rascals who are materially contaminated for their lusty sense gratification confusing innocent devotees. This will never last long."

- B. Nagendra Shanbhag, Bangalore, India

"All glories to Jagat Guru Srila Prabhupada!"

- Rebecca Logan, West Virginia, USA

"I love Prabhupada and I want to follow Prabhupada's instructions."

- Dr. Aurobindo Singh, Assam, India



Letters to the editor

"BTP came to me as a God-gift. Someone left it on the seat next to me in a plane. It gave me amazing insight to Prabhupada's ideology. I would like to subscribe to it."

- Cheema AK, Rajasthan, India

"Really it's a tremendous work for the movement of Prabhupada. You need to revive the backlogs in the present day."

- R Kiran Kumar, Andhra Pradesh, India

"Srila Prabhupada is the only authorized guru for Iskcon. If possible send me more copies."

- T Raja, Andhra Pradesh, India

"Hiding truth does not remain for ever. Truth always enlightens - right path which Gita says - Jai Prabhupada."

- Dr Mohan G. Raykar, Belgaum, India

"Even though we were in Krishna Consciousness since past 8 years we were unaware of IRM till I received my first BTP - The real Hare Krsna Magazine. Thanks for exposing for us the real Hare Krsna Movement."

- Roopa H Gowda, Bangalore, India

"I received your magazine issue 8, 'Back To Prabhupada'. This is a good book. I want to read all magazines like this. Can you send me all issues of this magazine or other like this? I feel very happy to see the whole world chant 'Hare Krishna'. So please send me copies of this magazine."

- Harish Singla, Punjab, India

"I have got an opportunity to read issue 8 BTP from Sriman Inderdeo Rambarose and I was so happy to read this magazine. I have got a lot of realization what is going on in Iskcon. I am following the Society for over 15 years. Please send me copies of this magazine and BTP."

- Samuel Maniram, Essequibo, Guyana

"I am writing to just say that I received Issue #9 on Christmas Eve. What a great gift for the holidays! I just enjoy reading the magazine. I read the entire magazine in one sitting. I just don't understand Bhakti Caru Swami and his flip-flop men-

tality towards Srila Prabhupada. It seems he may be a bit touched with confusion and needs to get that checked with a doctor. Also, the mention of Harikesa Swami and his wife's website. I visited it and his teachings are crazy. It seems he has no problem to teach others about meditation? How about he mentions that he was a former ISKCON senior devotee and ran off with loads of money and left ISKCON in ruins. Also, regarding Indradyumna Swami and how he was upset about that many devotees not showing up for his arrivals. If he was true to his teachings and that of Srila Prabhupada, don't you think that Krsna will have made sure they showed up? Hmmm.....seems Krsna is exhibiting some of his past-times now! Indradyumna is just like the Christian ministers here in the U.S. It's more of a money-making career versus as a calling from God to do preaching work. This very craziness has made the Christian church a laugh! I think everyone now can surely see how these bogus gurus, which are like that one defiant child we may have sometime in our childbearing years, are just totally not following instructions. I see now where one temple in Honolulu is now charging for Sunday Feast? I can understand both sides of the fence, but how about if that one in a million chance someone comes in that cannot afford even the three dollars? What a great offense to offend someone who may be a lost devotee of the Lord? Also, the temples I see are continually declining in devotees. It's amazing that even now people see it's the Hindus that are keeping the temples running. But remember Srila Prabhupada came to preach to the Westerners who needed the guidance. I see temples gearing more towards people of Indian origin and turning their noses towards other people and groups. This is simply not proper Vaisnava behavior. I send my blessings that IRM will soon turn

the tide in ISKCON and bring it back to the way it originally was when I first came in 1978/79 when the temples were packed with so many devotees it was standing room only! Hare Krsna!

- Donald McClelland, Virginia, USA

"I received Back To Prabhupada issue 9. It is very informative. I was flabbergasted to read that some of the GBC gurus are trying to displace Srila Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada is the founding father of ISKCON and is the pre-eminent guru for ISKCON. I am impressed with IRM's hard work to re-establish Srila Prabhupada's position. I am totally and fully supportive to Srila Prabhupada. Keep up the hard work. I would also like to receive the book 'The Final Order'. Thanking you."

- Sucandra Das, Nairobi, Kenya

"As usual, excellent issue, and I have read cover to cover. It is good to see so many devotees have written into BTP. I really liked the article on Bhakti Caru's guru celebrations, I do wonder if BCS reads BTP, maybe it would give him some realisations. Hare Krishna."

- Vijay Sharma, Birmingham, UK

"I think Srila Prabhupada is the only acarya and teacher in the world nowadays. I think there's no guru in society in such level of teaching. I need Iskcon to be held by Srila Prabhupada himself. No other person is perfect to be guru. Jai Srila Prabhupada."

- Soniya Shalini, Bangalore, India

"The special issues of magazines I am receiving are very enlightening. I am discovering many solutions from these texts."

- S Puneeth, Bangalore, India

"I have been in touch with ISKCON activities for 2 years, and I came to know about Srila Prabhupada and their work abroad and in India. A spontaneous turn in the people of Western Countries really is a great thing so I would like to know still more about Srila Prabhupada."

- Laxman G Dasan, Belgaum, India

"Srila Prabhupada is my real guru, I accept him and follow his footsteps. He enlightened me and showed me that Krsna is the supreme God."

- MBN Manjunatha, Mysore, India

"Get rid of imposters who are only there for money and power and not for upliftment of moral values of humans."

- Dr. Shyam K Bulchandani, Mumbai, India

"I read the first 4 BTPs from a friend and I am very eager to receive the next editions and TFO on my own address if it's possible? I need to know what's going on with Iskcon (GBC, gurus, etc) and the truth about our beloved Srila Prabhupada. Thank you all for your great service!"

- Krishna Priya Devi Dasi, St Laurent, Canada

"I read the summer special issue and found many truths hidden in it."

- Paramvir Singh Kanwar, Bangalore, India

"Keep up the good work."

- Javier Sanchez, Glasgow, UK

"I love Srila Prabhupada and always have and always will. I have no faith or trust in any of the present Iskcon GBC who are simply power mad after name, fame and prestige! Simply misleading."

- Subhadra Devi Dasi, Leicester, UK

"We have to stop all this nonsense going on in Iskcon. Together we can do it. I read your magazine, and it make me feel all the good days with Srila Prabhupada in the 70s. I was initiated in '73 and do not agree with anything going on in ISKCON today."

- Merumala Dasi, Florida, USA

"I really enjoy and cultivate my spiritual truth and knowledge with the Back To Prabhupada magazine. Thank you so much."

- Nandapriya Magnolo, California, USA

"Thank you so much for sending me the magazine. I am very impressed that you address problems so openly."

- Mrs Judy Scrimshaw, Cornwall, UK

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

Bhakti Caru Swami warns his worship is dangerous

In the last issue of *BTP*, we published a statement from ISKCON GBC-elected guru HH Bhakti Caru Swami (BCS) whereby he admitted that all disciples in ISKCON belong to Srila Prabhupada, and that only Srila Prabhupada was the bona fide Guru who would deliver them to Krishna. On the back page of this issue, we see yet another confession from BCS.

In the meantime, BCS himself has warned his followers that worshipping him rather than Srila Prabhupada is dangerous:

"Although I am happy about this website, but to tell you frankly, I do have some concern, because first of all I did not really see any need of such a website. I used to feel that such arrangements could lead to breed some sectarian mentality with me in the centre. [...] However if my disciples get united around me, it may create some sort of unity but it will fail to see the larger family of ISKCON and, as a result of that, instead of creating actual unity it may cause discord. However, if we keep our focus on Srila Prabhupada, then yes, we will be able to avoid that danger."

(BCS Podcast 25/5/06)

Thus, from BCS's own words we learn that:

- 1) Making BCS the centre of a disciple's life could breed a sectarian mentality.
- 2) Making BCS the centre of a disciple's life may cause discord.
- 3) Keeping Srila Prabhupada in the centre is the only way to avoid a dangerous personality cult where BCS is in the centre.

However, in classic bait-and-switch style perfected only by

the best practitioners of the guru hoax, BCS then states:

"...we are simply basking on Srila Prabhupada's glory [...] whatever recognition, honour and worship I am getting today is simply because of Srila Prabhupada. I personally do not have any qualification and therefore I do not actually deserve any honour and glory myself."

(BCS Podcast 25/5/06)

Thus we see that while he admits that he is one of these personalities basking in the reflected glory of Srila Prabhupada, and that he does not actually deserve such worship, BCS to this very day happily still continues to receive the worship that he claims is only meant for Srila Prabhupada!

So our appeal to BCS is very simple: Please **ACT** on your words by doing the following, and in this way prove you are not a hypocrite:

1) **STOP** the worship of yourself by renouncing your "*Vyasa Puja*" celebrations etc., and return **ALL** your disciples to Srila Prabhupada.

2) **STOP** initiating any more disciples as your own, thereby following your own advice:

"So for the time-being, let's stop giving initiation and find out what is actually the problem and what is the solution to this problem, whether we can find a solution and until then, let us stop."

(HH Bhakti Caru Swami, July 20th 2003, Toronto)

3) **SURRENDER** every last penny you have acquired in "*guru daskhina*" (money gifted to the guru), and return it to its real

owner, Srila Prabhupada, by publishing literature and establishing temples (minus IT parks and flight training academies) which actively preach that **ONLY** Srila Prabhupada is ISKCON's Guru. This should be very easy for you to do, since you seem to be well-financed:

"Dear Bhakti Charu Maharaja ... Your letter was very helpful. Even more so was the example you set by pledging \$1 million in Mayapur."

(Letter from GBC member Badrinarayan Das, posted May 29th, 2006)

In this way, you really will be able to stop the danger of sectarian discord in ISKCON which has ripped the movement apart ever since Srila Prabhupada was kicked out as ISKCON's Guru.

Srila Prabhupada's "Da Vinci" truth?

Please study the following statement:

"Like the mystery of Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code*, no one knows the whole picture; no one has all the answers. But, I believe, we have each understood certain facets of the truth. By questioning and exploring the fruit of our received traditions, we can release their flavours and then share the goodness with one another."

(BBC Radio 4, March 15th, 2006)

One would be forgiven for thinking that this was the rambling of some "new age" thinker, trying to show how all truth is relative. Unfortunately, no. These are the public pronouncements of Akhandadhi Das, premier lecturer of the "Truth and Dharma" courses at Bhaktivedanta College, ISKCON's institute of higher learn-

ing. Akhandadhi Das, one may remember, was featured in *BTP* 10 as an alcohol salesman, who began the campaign of banning IRM members from visiting the temple. One has to question if this is now ISKCON's standard, to choose as their expert on "truth" someone who in addition to promoting intoxication, does not even believe that Srila Prabhupada has "*all the answers*", but has only understood "*certain facets of the truth*", just like all the other religious teachers out there? Is this what he teaches on his "truth" courses? Is this the fidelity a disciple of Srila Prabhupada is supposed to display, to publically state that Srila Prabhupada can only possess relative truth, and on the BBC no less! ISKCON's descent into anti-Prabhupada offensive behaviour continues.

Oops ... Did I really say that?

Below are some quotes from His Holiness Narayana Maharaja:

"Our Gaudiya Vedanta Samiti sannyasis (Narayana Maharaja's organisation) have never fallen. I have strong belief in this, as I have seen our Gurudeva's sannyasis; none of them have ever become deviated. And, only in a very exceptional case has any of Srila Prabhupada Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura's sannyasa disciples fallen. Those who cannot fall are the real ISKCON."

(Narayana Maharaja Lecture, June 29th, 2002)

"There are many examples of persons who have been renounced sannyasis for 20 or 30 years; such persons may even have initiated disciples. However, after years of service to his gurudeva, he may conclude, 'I'm in a dilemma;

I have not realized anything. Everything that I believed to be true is false. I'm giving up my sannyasa and my chanting and remembering; I will no longer cheat others. I'm going to marry and start a real life.

(Narayana Maharaja Lecture, Austria, September 19th, 2002)

"If he (Srila Prabhupada) had told them everything, and if they were so knowledgeable and expert, why have so many of the senior devotees, even those in the renounced order, fallen down? Where are they now? [...] If there is no need for Prabhupada's disciples to continue hearing from a bona fide guru, then why are they falling? Why? I know more than you, much more than you."

(Narayana Maharaja Lecture, Canada, April 2001)

"If all the devotees, sann-yasis and so many brahmacharis with saffron cloth were serving him and following him, then why did they leave the institution? Why all this? Why did they leave and become weak? Why? It means that they are not aware of what Srila Swami Maharaja (Srila Prabhupada) wanted. They were not following so much."

(Narayana Maharaja Lecture, California, June 10th, 2000)

[Note: *Sannyasa* = celibate, renounced monastic order. *Sannyasi* = renunciant. *Brahmachari* = celibate student monk].

Above, Narayana Maharaja uses the fall of ISKCON *sannyasis* as evidence of the following:

a) Their fall from *sannyasa* proves that they never belonged to the real ISKCON.

b) Their fall from *sannyasa* happened because they "have not realised anything" and everything they "believed to be true is false."

c) Their fall from *sannyasa* was

because they were not knowledgeable and therefore they need to hear from a bona fide guru such as Narayana Maharaja.

d) Their fall from *sannyasa* was because they were not aware of what Srila Prabhupada wanted.

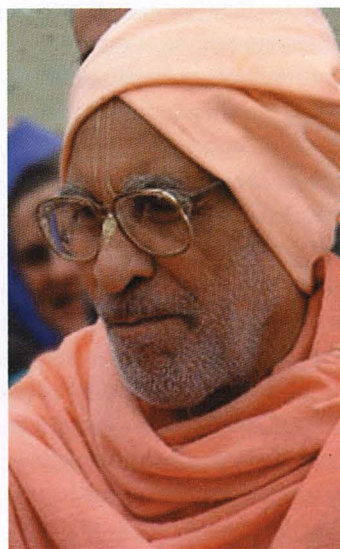
Since two of Narayana Maharaja's top *sannyasis* – Bhaktisar Maharaja (ex-Dhrstadyumna Swami/Das from ISKCON) and Aranya Maharaja (ex-Parantapa Das when with ISKCON, and ex-Premaproyajna Das when with the non-ISKCON Gaura Govinda Swami camp) – have also now fallen from *sannyasa*, after being *sannyasis* for just a few years, then according to Narayana Maharaja's OWN WORDS, we can conclude the following:

a) Narayana Maharaja's movement is NOT the real ISKCON.

b) If one hears from Narayana Maharaja they will not realise anything and what they believe to be true will be false.

c) There is no need to hear from Narayana Maharaja, as he is not a bona fide guru that one can hear from to be saved from falling.

d) Narayana Maharaja's *sannyasis* were not aware of what Srila Prabhupada wanted.



HH Narayana Maharaja of the Gaudiya Math: not a bona-fide guru, according to his own words

Conflict resolution in ISKCON

As part of their attempts to show a more user-friendly face, the GBC have made many attempts at a "make-over" to project a more inclusive and rational approach to solving conflict and dealing with schisms in ISKCON. This has included setting up an Ombudsman service, and at this year's GBC meetings, HH Jayadvaita Swami was invited to give a whole presentation to the GBC on how to resolve conflict. His presentation was heartily appreciated by the GBC, and two of his recommendations were:

"2. Recognize that efforts to shut down or drive out dissenters - while sometimes perhaps required or inevitable - have only limited effectiveness, and may sometimes backfire."

"6. In response to competition, recognize that combative responses alone are likely to fail without improvements in your "product, marketing, and customer service.""

(HH Jayadvaita Swami, Presentation to the GBC, 2006)

At this year's Rathayatra festivals, we saw evidence of just how ISKCON has decided to apply the above recommendations for conflict resolution:

- At the London Rathayatra, one of our BTP distributors was punched in an attempt to stop him distributing. Luckily, the attacker was caught on film and a criminal complaint has already been filed. A Police investigation is currently ongoing.

- At the Detroit Rathayatra, a temple devotee is caught on film violently ripping up a copy of BTP. This despite the fact that BTP's cover and the inside pages have pictures of Srila Prabhupada, and Srila Prabhupada has stated in regards to his picture:

"There is no difference between me and my picture. Therefore we should honor and keep pictures in that spirit. If we throw pictures this

way and that way, that is offense. The name and picture are as good as the person in spiritual world. In the material world either picture or person, everything is illusion."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, September 4th, 1972)

- At the same Rathayatra, GBC member and GBC-elected guru Ravindra Svarupa Das is also caught on film instructing accomplices to **"get that camera"** (referring to filming that was being carried out of assailants physically attacking our BTP distributors). To forcibly take away someone else's property is, of course, a criminal offence.

All these activities show just how seriously ISKCON is taking Jayadvaita Swami's advice about trying to "shut down and drive out dissenters" and that "combative responses are likely to fail".

Of course, Jayadvaita Maharaja showed himself what he thought of his own recommendations when he organised an operation at the 2004 Los Angeles Rathayatra to take back BTPs from those who had already received the magazine (please see BTP 5, page 6). Obviously, ISKCON does not believe in devotees being allowed to read the arguments for themselves and making up their own minds.

These violent responses are even more bizarre when one considers that in a recent academic publication (see page 15), the GBC have also stated that:

"There is no doubt that both ISKCON's leadership and the IRM have acted and are acting to establish what each considers the correct theological conclusion with regard to the affairs of gurus and disciples."

(GBC submission, *The Rival Positions in the IRM-GBC Controversy within ISKCON*, Martin-Luther University, Germany, 2006).

The GBC admit the IRM is acting only with sincere theological considerations, so why try and combat it with oppression, violence and temple bannings?

From Russia with love: Bringing Prabhupada back



By
Lila
Manjari
Dasi

Moscow
Russia

I grew up during the darkest years of Soviet Communism, and like so many others spent an obscure and aimless life. However, I always questioned why life was arranged the way it was, and whether the purpose was simply to have a family, produce some children and then die? Once I tried to imagine myself dying, but in doing so I got a realization that actually I will never die! As a searching person, I was always interested in reading everything, and from 1985 onwards occult and esoteric knowledge began spreading in the Soviet Union. I dove into reading as much of this material as possible, but quickly got tired of this kind of literature, since it did not offer any practical steps as to how one could gain spiritual perfection. From my childhood I had dreamt of becoming a doctor, and was interested in why people have diseases and pain, and why some diseases could not be treated. Whilst attending a seminar on Palmistry, I came across a photocopied book on Ayurveda, and began to take an interest in the subject. Later on I saw an advertisement for Ayurvedic seminars, and was very eager to go. At the time I did not know that this was only devotees from ISKCON preaching "undercover", and when I attended the seminar I hardly heard any informa-

tion on Ayurveda. Instead, in the name of Ayurveda they preached about "Vedic Knowledge". At the time there was a great vacuum as regards such knowledge in the Soviet Union, and therefore anyone who had such information could give lectures to innocent people. But this was when I met Srila Prabhupada through his books.

After the lecture, I asked what I had to do to get more of this "Vedic knowledge", and the lecturer showed me Srila Prabhupada's books, *Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers*; *Sri Isopanisad*; and *Easy Journey To Other Planets*. I took all these books, and immediately understood that I was about to change my life forever! This was in 1988. Straightaway I gave up eating meat, and drinking tea and coffee. Due to these changes I actually experienced dramatic weight loss, but despite this I was resolute in my determination to continue on the course of action I had chosen. Reading Srila Prabhupada's books, I realized that I had finally found the knowledge which I had been searching for such a long time – knowledge of the Supreme Lord and how to reach Him. In this way I began to associate more and more with the devotees, and began visiting the first temple in Moscow. Later on I got initiated by Rohini Suta Das, who was one of the ISKCON "gurus" operating in the then Eastern Bloc. Though I had mentioned that I had always been interested in being a doctor, due to reading Srila Prabhupada's books I realized that it was better I study the Vedic sciences, and therefore became an Ayurvedic practitioner. I went to India to study, and indeed I became the first practitioner of Ayurveda in the Soviet Union. Due to this, one of my services was to give seminars on Ayurveda in all the temples in the Soviet Union. This gave me the opportu-

nity to travel throughout the old Soviet Union, where many temples had sprung up everywhere. However, the more I travelled and the more I met devotees, I could not help but notice many things. The devotees were not at all happy. Though they had come to Krishna consciousness to experience joy, they were not finding it. Rather, many persons in authority exploited the devotees. I can but here give a few examples.

One Temple President used temple devotees to build a house for his mother-in-law. Another persuaded many people who came to his temple to sell their homes and give him their money, promising that he would run a business buying goods from India and selling them in Lithuania, and that he would return their money and more. But instead, he simply used the money to buy luxury goods for himself and enjoy himself. Eventually the authorities had to send him abroad to do his "service" there. There were too many examples like this from all over the Soviet Union. However, even though there was all this cheating and hypocrisy, the anger which arose from seeing this was kept in check by everyone staying devoted to their "gurus" in the name of serving Krishna. I wrote to my guru Rohini Suta Prabhu, pointing out all the deviations I was seeing, but was ignored. Criticism was not at all allowed. Rather, we were told that if we saw any dirt, it simply meant that we ourselves were not pure! In this way I continued serving in ISKCON from 1988 to 1998, through my "guru".

Then Harikesa fell down and this of course sent reverberations throughout the whole *yatra* (preaching mission). He had always been promoted as the great "No. 1 Guru", even by the other gurus. Many of his followers being shocked went out of their minds, and abandoned Krishna con-

sciousness entirely and went crazy with sense gratification. Even those like myself who had other gurus were disturbed. Those who had not left Krishna consciousness altogether went and joined different Gaudiya Matha groups. Though I could clearly see all these problems and contradictions, there were no clear answers. To just leave ISKCON, or go somewhere else, did not actually give the solution to how one should actually serve Srila Prabhupada correctly. And without this clear solution, just reacting to the problems did not at all help. Thus it was only when I discovered Srila Prabhupada's own instructions regarding how he should be served, that everything which I had seen, everything which had happened, and what I needed to do now, became crystal clear.

A devotee was returning from Mayapura, and on the way he had picked up *The Final Order* (TFO) and other IRM (ISKCON Revival Movement) papers in Calcutta. It took some time for me to digest this information, and since I was now reading that everything which I had believed to be true for so many years was wrong, there was naturally much hesitation and doubt also. But through calm and careful study of TFO the truth penetrated into my heart, and I knew that this was the truth. In 1999 I also contacted Krishnakant, the author of *The Final Order*, to take guidance as to what we should do next, and get direction for the preaching. As I was still traveling throughout all the ISKCON temples of the old Soviet Union giving Ayurvedic lectures, Krishna had now put me in a unique position to preach the truth. So now at the end of my seminars I would tell all the devotees the truth about *The Final Order*. In Bryansk temple, when I told them this truth, most of the devotees left the temple and began organising their

"We have IRM supporters in Moscow, Voronezh, Kursk, Bryansk, Kemerovo, Nozhniy Novgorod and Novobirisk, as well as in Latvia and Lithuania"

to the old U.S.S.R.



The Final Order and Back to Prabhupada are available in Russian. They are also available online at the Russian IRM website at: www.iskcon-irm.ru

own IRM Nama Hatta. In this way many people throughout the old Soviet Union found out the truth from TFO. Of course, preaching so directly inside an ISKCON temple was not without its risks, and once whilst I was preaching in this way in the Tbilisi temple, a fanatic follower of the gurus wanted to beat me up, and he had to be stopped by the Temple President. Naturally, word of my preaching soon got out, and a directive was sent to all the Temple Presidents to not invite me anymore! Also many of the senior devotees from the Moscow temple tried to get me to change my views. I told them that I was very serious in going back home to Godhead, to Krishna, and for this I needed Krishna's real representative Srila Prabhupada, and had no desire to continue making mistakes and getting cheated.

In all my efforts I was very ably helped by my son Igor (I am a widow), who because he spoke English, would act as a translator for our communication with Krishnakant. It is also he who has translated the story you are reading now!

We knew, however, that in order to really spread the truth, we had to translate the TFO into Russian.



One of the IRM meetings held throughout the old Soviet Union

We had great enthusiasm for this project as we eagerly wanted to share the truth with our countrymen. We tried to do the translation work ourselves and we also used professionals. However, we could see that the professionals really had no idea regarding the subject matter of TFO. Luckily Krishna sent us a devotee who was also a professional translator, and he was able to produce the finished version. So it came to pass that the Russian version of TFO became the first non-English TFO translation ever. We also printed 1000 copies of TFO in a book form, and indeed it was also the first time any version of TFO had been produced in a regular book form. Up until then, the English version was still spiral-bound!

Our preaching throughout Russia has gone through a number of phases. Initially we were able to preach quite easily in ISKCON temples, but later on they clamped down heavily, with the usual warnings given to devotees that they must not read TFO under any circumstances. We also attracted many persons to join the Russian IRM, but we found that most of them were not very serious, but rather were simply using the IRM as vehicle to fulfill their own ambitions. Either they were not welcome in ISKCON and were simply looking for somewhere else to become "leaders", or needed the IRM simply as the justification to remain independent of ISKCON and any authority, but still present to their followers that they were part of some international movement. We even had one woman who preached that

the *ritvik* system was only temporary until others became qualified, at which point they could take their own disciples. Yet she was not even able to wait that long and also began to take disciples herself! And others insisted on appointing themselves "*ritvik-acaryas*" and giving initiations on Srila Prabhupada's behalf. Indeed, one person even claimed that Srila Prabhupada came in a dream and told him to do so! And so on. In other words, everyone was desirous for *some* kind of a position no matter how little it seemed. We found that not only did such people not help, but actually were causing harm to preaching the truth. Hence we have preferred to grow slowly and surely rather than accommodate such ambitious persons. Otherwise we would just be creating another edition of the mess which ISKCON is in currently, destroyed as it is due to ambition and self-motivation. All these experiences made me realize the following statements from Srila Prabhupada:

"According to revealed scriptures, if a spiritual master can convert even one soul into a perfectly pure devotee, his mission in life is fulfilled. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura always used to say, 'Even at the expense of all the properties, temples and mathas that I have, if I could convert even one person into a pure devotee, my mission would be fulfilled.'"

(Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Adilīla 7.91, purport)

Nevertheless by Srila Prabhupada's mercy we have actually made good progress in a relatively short time, and now we have IRM supporters in Moscow, Voronezh, Kursk, Bryansk, Kemerovo, Nozhniy Novgorod and Novobirisk, as well as in Latvia and Lithuania. Plus, in addition to the many copies of TFO in Russian being distributed, we have also translated, printed and



Lila Manjari in front of her altar

distributed back issues of *Back To Prabhupada*, including the Special Issue. Further, we have set up an IRM website in Russian at www.iskcon-irm.ru, where previous issues of BTP and TFO, and other IRM papers, are available online in Russian, as well as an internet forum for preaching to interested visitors.

I have run an active and regular program in my home in Moscow for 10 years, which since 1999 has been dedicated to the IRM. Many of the members who come are people who were previously my Ayurveda patients, and in this way I am continuing to actively preach Krishna consciousness via Ayurveda. I have also published a major book on Ayurveda which is available in commercial stores throughout Russia, and which allows me to meet many people, to whom I distribute Srila Prabhupada's books. Indeed, the Russian IRM website mentioned earlier was set up by one such former Ayurvedic patient who has now become a devotee. In this way I continue to actively travel throughout the old Soviet Union increasing the IRM's presence.

Readers are cordially invited to follow Lila Manjari's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

Srila Prabhupada warns of GBC deviation

In 1970 Srila Prabhupada established the Governing Body Commission (GBC) to assist him in the management of ISKCON. Their powers and ambit were very clear. They were only to be administrative and managerial in function, to simply implement and maintain the instructions Srila Prabhupada had already given, NOT introduce new ones or change them. Thus they were purely an executive body:

"The GBC (Governing Body Commission) has been established by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada to represent Him in carrying out the responsibility of managing the International Society for Krishna Consciousness of which He is the Founder-Acarya and supreme authority. The GBC accepts as its life and soul His divine instructions and recognizes that it is completely dependent on His mercy in all respects. The GBC has no other function or purpose other than to execute the instructions so kindly given by His Divine Grace and preserve and spread his Teachings to the world in their pure form."

(GBC Resolution No.1, 1975)

However, as soon as Srila Prabhupada departed the GBC immediately exceeded their brief, kicked Srila Prabhupada out from his position as Guru, and became gurus themselves. Here we see some instructions from Srila Prabhupada prophetically warn-

ing of these deviant tendencies in the GBC.

GBC dictatorship condemned

"GBC members are simply to see that things are going on. Other centers have got president, secretary, etc. and they are managing separately. That is the formula. So how is it that the GBC are the final authority? They are simply to examine that things are going on nicely, that is all."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, July 9th, 1971)

"GBC does not mean to control a center. GBC means to see that the activities of a center go on nicely. I do not know why Tamala is exercising his absolute authority. That is not the business of GBC. [...] GBC is to see that things are going nicely but not to exert absolute authority. That is not in the power of GBC. Tamala should not do like that [...] A GBC member cannot go beyond the jurisdiction of his power."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, August 12th, 1971)

"GBC men should not dictate very much, simply supervise and see that the standards are maintained."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, February 14th, 1972)

GBC's actual function

"The GBC should all be the instructor gurus. I am the initiator guru, and you should be the instructor guru by teaching what I am teaching and doing what I am doing. This is not a title, but you must actually come to this platform. This I want."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, August 4th, 1975)

GBC ambition leads to falldown

"It is now evident that some of our top men are very much ambitious and there has been so many fall-downs."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, January 27th, 1975)

"But the difficulty is that our GBC men are falling victim to maya. Today I trust this GBC and tomorrow he will fall down. That is the difficulty. If the GBC men are so flickering then what to speak of the others. Unless this problem is solved whatever we may resolve it will not be very useful."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, December 16th, 1974)

GBC's guru programme condemned

"Our mission is to serve bhaktavisesa and live with devotees. Not that you take the place of the guru. That is nonsense, very dangerous. Then everything will be spoiled. As soon as you become ambitious to take the place of guru—gurusu nara-matih. That is the material disease."

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, April 20th, 1977)

"Now has the GBC become more than Guru Maharaja? As if simply GBC is meant for looking after pounds, shilling, pence. The GBC does not look after spiritual life. That is a defect."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, November 10th, 1975)

GBC punishment will be very great

"Therefore we have created these GBC. So they should be very responsible men. Otherwise, they will be punished. They will be punished to become a sudra. Although Yamaraja is a GBC, but he made a little mistake. He was punished to become a sudra. So those who are GBCs, they should be very, very careful to administer the business of ISKCON. Otherwise they will be punished. As the post is very great, similarly, the punishment is also very great."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, June 4th, 1974)

Future GBC destruction of ISKCON predicted

"What will happen when I am not here, shall everything be spoiled by GBC? So for the time being, let the GBC activities be suspended until I thoroughly revise the whole procedure."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, April 11th, 1972)

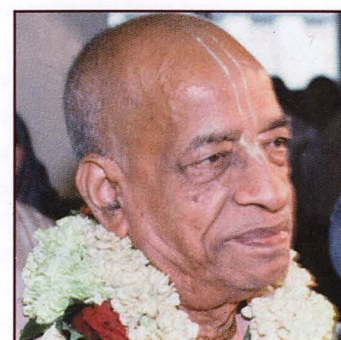
"I made the GBC to give me relief, but if you do like this, then where is the relief. It is anxiety for me. This is the difficulty, that as soon as one gets power, he becomes whimsical and spoils everything."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, September 12th, 1974)

"I am training some of my experienced disciples how to manage after my departure. So if instead of taking the training, if in my lifetime you people say I am the Lord of all I survey, that is dangerous conspiracy." (Srila Prabhupada Letter, October 8th, 1974)

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.



Continuing or ending the *parampara*?

In the United States, the President is subject to an electoral rule known as "term limits". This states that he must be removed from office after 2 terms (8 years), and the voters are not given the choice of deciding whether or not they wish for him to continue. As we will now show, it seems that our largely American GBC have also decided to apply this political device to the *parampara* (disciplic succession of bona fide Gurus).

The GBC's chief argument as to why Srila Prabhupada must be replaced as the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON, is that to keep him as the Guru for ISKCON would "end the *parampara*". Let us examine if this statement is supported by Srila Prabhupada.

1) No one is disputing that when Srila Prabhupada established ISKCON and became its *diksa* Guru in 1966, this act of Srila Prabhupada initiating disciples was seen as the *parampara* CONTINUING with Srila Prabhupada. Nobody is arguing that Srila Prabhupada acting as the Guru of ISKCON from 1966 onwards, was an act which caused the *parampara* to end. Thus Srila Prabhupada acting as the Guru of ISKCON is not seen as ending the *parampara*, but continuing it.

2) So how then does the idea of Srila Prabhupada continuing to act as the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON, which itself CONTINUED the *parampara*, now paradoxically END the *parampara*? How can that which hitherto was the very cause of the *parampara* continuing, now be the source of its very end? That's where "term limits" come into play. For it is argued that no Guru can exceed his term limit of acting as Guru – this term limit being as long as he has a physical body. We thus have another paradox, in that a SPIRITUAL master's ability to act as a spiritual master, is now defined

via the availability of his PHYSICAL body. That is, to use the political analogy, a spiritual master is "constitutionally" forbidden from accepting disciples as soon as he loses the use of his PHYSICAL body.

But there is one problem with this "term limit" argument. Srila Prabhupada *never stated* this "term limit" for a spiritual master's operation. Therefore, in the absence of an explicit statement from Srila Prabhupada confirming the above argument, the argument remains simply speculative, and we need not consider it any further since it lacks authority.

There are, however, two statements from Srila Prabhupada which are mistakenly used to support this "physical absence term limit" argument. One is the following:

"But as a matter of etiquette it is the custom that during the lifetime of your Spiritual master you bring the prospective disciples to him, and in his absence or disappearance you can accept disciples without any limitation. This is the law of disciplic succession."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter To Tusta Krishna, 2nd December, 1975)

However, this does not state a term LIMIT for when the Guru can act. On the contrary, it actually states a term limit in which the Guru can NOT be replaced. To again use the political analogy, the GBC's argument is akin to saying that after 4 years in office a President must be removed. The letter above, however, is akin to saying that a President must rule for *at least* 4 years before it is even possible to remove him.

Stating the time period for when someone can NOT be replaced is not the same as giving a time period in which he MUST be replaced!

The other statement

erroneously used to support the "term limit" argument is:

"One who is now the disciple is the next spiritual master."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 2.9.43)

However, this does not even imply the GBC's "physical absence term limit" argument, as it does not give a mandatory time period within which a disciple must become a spiritual master; or further, that such a time period is explicitly linked to the spiritual master's physical ABSENCE. On the contrary, the above quote is used in the context of the *parampara* involving Brahma, Narada and Vyasa, *all* of whom are *still* said to be physically PRESENT.

Thus, in conclusion, there is no statement supporting this "physical absence term limit" argument. Hence, Srila Prabhupada acting as the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON does not end the *parampara*, but actually CONTINUES the *parampara*, since as a bona fide member and the current link of the *parampara*, Srila Prabhupada continues to connect devotees to the *parampara*.

However, the guru hoax system currently practised by ISKCON *does* END the *parampara*, since it has replaced the genuine, authorised and current link in the *parampara* – Srila Prabhupada – with numerous unauthorised false gurus, who are unable to represent or connect anyone to the *parampara*. Further, even by their *own* false "physical absence term limit" argument, the GBC's guru hoax program can be seen as ending certain branches of the ISKCON *parampara*, since as soon as one of their unauthorised gurus leaves his body, immediately a disciple would need to succeed him, lest the "*parampara* stop"; and yet the following GBC gurus are all physically absent and NO "living guru" has replaced them to become the next GBC authorised "living link" in the *parampara*:



HH Gaura Govinda Swami:
"*parampara*" ended in 1996



HH Tamal Krishna Goswami:
"*parampara*" ended in 2002

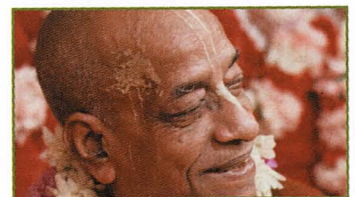


HH Sridhara Swami:
"*parampara*" ended in 2004



HH Bhakti Tirtha Swami:
"*parampara*" ended in 2005*
* "Gurudeva did not leave, or could he possibly leave a successor." (BTSwami disciple's forum, July 8th, 2006)

It is ironic that on the one hand the GBC have argued that in the case of Srila Prabhupada the "law" of disciplic succession means that all his disciples immediately are supposed to become guru on his departure, and indeed in this case we had 11 immediate replacements; yet as seen from the cases above, the GBC are unable to find even one person to continue the "living *parampara*" and "succeed" the guru after many years.



Srila Prabhupada acting as the *diksa* Guru for ISKCON continues the *parampara*, whilst ISKCON's unauthorised guru system has ended the *parampara*.

The man who expanded 11 to 70: Case study of

The guru system we have today in ISKCON is the result of a "guru reform" movement spearheaded in 1984 by His Grace Ravindra Svarupa Das (RSD). This "reform movement" sought to convince the world that, though ISKCON's GBC (Governing Body Commission) had made a huge error in unauthorisedly appointing 11 "pure devotee guru successors" to the real Guru, Srila Prabhupada, (Great Guru Hoax part 1), they had now become "enlightened" with the actual truth; namely, that Srila Prabhupada had left an open field for any of his disciples to succeed him as a *diksa* (initiating) guru - so long as the GBC gave its voting approval, which has resulted today in some 70 unauthorised gurus (Great Guru Hoax part 2). We will now analyse the words and wisdom of the founder of ISKCON's current guru system, who expanded the hoax from "11 to 70".

RSD's bizarre statements

Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati cause of ISKCON problems

"The real revolutionary, and the person who really has caused many of our problems today, is Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

Here RSD tries to blame the mess which ISKCON is in on the spiritual master of Srila Prabhupada, Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur!

Srila Prabhupada like mafia manager

"This is the fact, this is the Mafia. The mafia style, it wasn't criminal, this is inherited from an old Roman style of management, it is just pre-industrial that is all. This is an old fashioned pre-industrial style of

social organisation. That somehow or other survived in Palermo and places like that. I will tell you something, just to show you how intuitively recognisable that style is. There was a period of time when Ramesvara (one of the original 11 guru hoaxers - Ed.) was having his assistants either read the book or see the movie 'The Godfather', so they could learn about management. It wasn't because it was criminal, but it was the relationship of the interchange between the leaders and the followers that was actually the essence of that style of management. And this guru... As the zonal acharya, that is how; Prabhupada was also a manager like that."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

Here RSD compares the management style of both Srila Prabhupada and the zonal acharya system (Great Guru Hoax part 1) to that of the Mafia.

Lord Krishna's actions defective

"Krishna says in this world, any endeavour is covered with fault. Just as a fire is covered with smoke. So anything that you do in this world, it is always going to have its defects or its downside, even if it is done by Krishna himself. Lord Chaitanya released confidential information into the world about Krishna's pastimes that were maybe not very well spread around so much. What was the result? A sahajiya movement, and you can say, well look what Lord Chaitanya did you know, He put this whole sahajiya movement here, He shouldn't have done that, it was a big mistake."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

Here RSD extends Lord Krishna's statement in the *Bhagavad-gita* that "every en-

deavour is covered by some sort of fault" (Bg. 18.48), to the activities of Lord Krishna Himself, even though in the purport to this verse, Srila Prabhupada clearly states such faulty activities only apply to conditioned souls:

"In conditioned life, all work is contaminated by the material modes of nature."

(*Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, 18.48, purport)

Srila Prabhupada is 'dead'

"I simply wish that these people (ritvik advocates) would settle this issue by writing Prabhupada a letter and letting us know what he says when he answers back."

(RSD, San Diego Ritvik Debate, 1990)

Here RSD offensively tries to demonstrate the alleged fallacy of the ritvik viewpoint by highlighting Srila Prabhupada's physical absence.

RSD justifies basis of Great Guru Hoax part 1

Ritvik appointment = Guru appointment

"Yes, Prabhupada accepted him (Kirtanananda) back and went and gave him a position of leadership. He was on the GBC, and New Vrindavan was a very important place of pilgrimage, and you know, he was one of the people whose name was on the list when Prabhupada appointed ritviks, and in the context, everybody understood that these were the people who would be the first initiating spiritual masters. Of course, everyone's big doubt about that is how that Prabhupada named these people expecting them to be spiritual masters when he knew all these things about them."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

RSD's "guru reform" was pred-

icated on arguing that the first 11 "gurus" were not "appointed" as such:

"There was no hand-picking of successors"

(RSD, *ISKCON Communications Journal*, Vol. 2, No.1, January 1994)

Yet at the same time he claims that Srila Prabhupada hand-picking and appointing 11 ritviks was the equivalent to naming 11 *diksa* gurus, as we see above.

As if such an ambivalent fudge was not bad enough, he simultaneously tries to fudge this fudge with other nonsensical claims:

Parampara to continue via "a nod"

"because he said I shall select some of you, this is the selection that never was. I shall select some of you, that's what he did, was he both selected and didn't select, very cleverly or obliquely, and at arm's length. He appointed 11 ritvik gurus, and also said you cannot become guru, unless you are qualified, now this to me, this was a nod, these are my best people. This was a nod in their direction."

(RSD, San Diego Ritvik Debate, 1990)

So on the one hand 11 ritviks were appointed to go on to become gurus, and on the other they were simultaneously selected and not selected to be gurus. Go figure!

RSD's false guru reform - Great Guru Hoax part 2

RSD's problem (October 1984)

"I was asked to be in charge of a committee to research matters and find out what went wrong. What went wrong in ISKCON and what to do about it. What was wrong with the guru position and what to do about it."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

Ravindra Svarupa Das

RSD's solution – Poacher turns gamekeeper (September 1985)

"So anyway that was this meeting, then people, that is when I started initiating and became an initiating guru by the way. Our little group of people we got together and the GBC said we need three signatures, we got to have some people, so they looked at me and this the first time I really thought about this. So I got three, few signatures as they wanted in fact, Satsvarupa, Tamal Krishna Goswami and Hridayananda Maharaja, those were the signatures. So I was then an officially approved initiating guru."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

Here we see how the so-called "guru reform" deal was "stitched-up". The "guru reform" led by RSD from 1984 had to find the solution to what went wrong with the horrendous zonal *acharya* system in place at the time (Great Guru Hoax part 1). Very quickly, he finds the answer – to make sure he gets a share of the guru pie himself. And WHO gives it to him? Who sign his 'guru papers' for him? 3 of the 11 "zonal gurus" he was supposedly challenging and reforming. Therefore, following this supposed "guru reform", all of the original 11 gurus (not yet fallen) who had perpetrated a monstrous hoax on the whole society for nearly 10 years that caused the "guru reform" movement in the first place, got to keep their guru positions and disciples intact, were not sanctioned in any way whatsoever, and in exchange, the guru field was opened up to the supposed "reformers" such as RSD.

And in this way the deal was cut, the "reformers" were bought-off by the zonal gurus, and everyone went home happy.

The results of "guru reform"

1992: RSD promotes occult astrologer

"Panditji, the astrologer and seer, had by his occult art pierced the veil of the future and seen a wonder arise, a marvel born from—of all things (I feel compelled to add)—the 1990 meeting of the Governing Body Commission of ISKCON [...] the Hare Kṛṣṇa movement would manifest world-transforming power. Panditji went so far as to specify an exact date, March 7, for the completion of the dharma-cakra. A marvel, a world-historical marvel, would be born."

(RSD, 'ISKCON's Dharma Cakra', *Back to Godhead*, #26-02, 1992)

2000: RSD admits occult prophecy fails

"Therefore the question remains: What, then, will we do? How will we deal with our polarized and disintegrating society? [...] If we ask why ISKCON now finds itself in such an impossible position, we can only conclude that it must be due to the continuing reactions to our own sins and offenses. [...] So I have been baffled and in much distress [...] trying to pray continuously and earnestly for forgiveness for all our offenses to Srila Prabhupada, to Vaishnavas, and to dependents like women and children. Of course, now our offenses and sins against our children are foremost in mind, but these are just part of a larger pattern of offenses, ultimately to Prabhupada."

(RSD, then GBC Chairman, May 2000)

2005: RSD encourages worship of himself

"He (Bhakti Caru Swami) told us that he had recently attended the Vyasa Puja celebration of his dear friend Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu in Philadelphia. He recalled that as they were having lunch, Ravindra

Svarupa Prabhu, speaking about his own Vyasa Puja celebration, said, "Actually, disciples NEED this." (Text PAMHO:10411392, "Vyasa Puja / Prabhupada festival", 19 September 2005)

Ritvik v tradition

Ritvik is traditional

"Two deviations from Prabhupada's order - the "zonal *acarya*" system and the "posthumous ritvik" system - rest on adherence to the traditional idea of leadership. [...] In the event, the Gaudiya Matha leaders disregarded this order, and instead they reverted to the traditional single-*acarya* rule to which they were, after all, culturally habituated."

(RSD, *Allegiance to Guru, to ISKCON and to Prabhupada*, 1998)

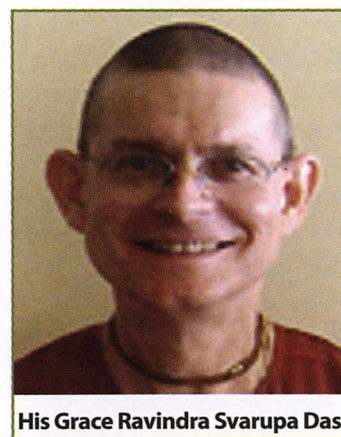
Current ISKCON guru system not traditional

"What we were trying to do now you have to understand had never been done. It had just never been done and to me it's entirely natural that in this case when you're doing something that had never been done; when you're going to have a single institution with many different spiritual masters and there are many different disciples who are going to have to work together in a cooperative and unified way. Just hadn't been done."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

Current ISKCON guru system based on trial and error

"How to do it? And to me the only the way you can do it is to try this and if that doesn't work try this..... until you finally find what works out. So I think it was very difficult for anyone to foresee, so it seems that the only way to do this is by trying to do it. And see what works and what doesn't work and Prabhupada himself said that he



His Grace Ravindra Svarupa Das

used the trial and error method, so I don't think it is not bona-fide."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

GBC not traditional

"But he was trying to change something, and set up a GBC, but we learn that Bhaktisiddhanta had wanted the same thing to happen and it did not happen, because the idea of this GBC is not exactly traditional."

(RSD, *Issues in ISKCON Reform* lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

Here RSD turns completely on its head the common argument used against the ritvik system set up by Srila Prabhupada, that it is unprecedented and untraditional. Rather, RSD states that it is his guru system which ISKCON now follows which is unprecedented, created as it was through a system of "trial and error", and further the whole system by which ISKCON is run via a GBC, is also not traditional. But the ritvik system which has a single *acarya*, Srila Prabhupada, is based on the traditional idea of leadership.

Clearly therefore, according to RSD, if "tradition" is to be any yard-stick, it is his guru system which runs today in ISKCON which should be ditched, rather than the ritvik system.

Readers' questions and challenges

"Please have an issue of BTP dedicated to only praising PRABHUPADA and not dedicated to putting people down. If you wish to glorify Prabhupada then actually do so. Forget about other people's bad qualities and really show that this magazine is called "Back To Prabhupada". Just talk about chanting Hare Krsna and publish Prabhupada's writings...."

- Srradha Cartwright, Greenfield, USA

Editor replies: We quote from our editorial in BTP 8, where Srila Prabhupada explains exactly how to praise him:

"You can eulogize your Guru Maharaja, but you have to learn it and face the public and be strong to defend yourself. That is success. **Not by praising your Guru Maharaja. You'll praise your Guru Maharaja. That is not very difficult. But be victorious to the opposing elements. Then you will praise your Guru Maharaja nicely.** At home, you can praise your Guru Maharaja, and Guru Maharaja be satisfied, "Oh, my disciples are praising me." That is not very.... That is good. Respectful. That is the qualification. **But you have to fight. Then your Guru Maharaja will be glorified."**

(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, December 26th, 1975)

Srila Prabhupada makes it very clear that what is required is to "defend", "fight" and be "victorious"; and not to simply "praise" him. Thus taking the cue from Srila Prabhupada, BTP's success should be measured, according to Srila Prabhupada, in terms of how much it is fighting and emerging victorious against those elements who oppose Srila Prabhupada's position as the real and only bona fide Guru for ISKCON, and not just by how much "praise" it contains. Only then will Srila Prabhupada be truly glorified.

"His Divine Grace Bhaktisiddhanta Thakur warned in his work, "Who is Vaisnava?" not to criticize any fellow Vaisnava."

- Gurubhakti Das, Calcutta, India

Editor replies: First of all we have to know who is exactly a Vaisnava. The first qualification of a Vaisnava is that he will obey the orders of his spiritual master. If one disobeys the orders of the spiritual master, then he cannot be a Vaisnava; not to speak of trying to usurp the seat of his spiritual master as the GBC have been trying to do for the past 30 years:

"Our mission is to serve (...). **Not that you take the place of the guru. That is nonsense, very dangerous. Then everything will be spoiled.** As soon as you become ambitious to take the place of guru - gurusu nara-matih. That is the material disease."

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, April 20th, 1977)

"If one is disobeying the spiritual master, he cannot remain in the pure status of life. **He cannot be siksa-guru or anything else. He is finished, immediately."**

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, July 4th, 1974)

Secondly, we know that Srila Prabhupada himself stated that there are many non-Vaisnavas in ISKCON who are posing as Vaisnavas:

"There are many jealous people in the dress of Vaisnavas in this Krsna consciousness movement, and they should be completely neglected. There is no need to serve a jealous person who is in the dress of a Vaisnava." (Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-lila, 1.218 purport)

Clearly, those who unauthorisedly "take the place of the guru" are these very same "jealous people in the dress of Vaisnavas".

"I wish to learn more - especially since I've learned that direct initiation must be from a living guru - how is this not possible???"

- Saanu Aino, Denver, USA

Editor replies:

1) Srila Prabhupada never used the term "living guru". Therefore, it can have no relevance to initiation.

2) The vast majority of Srila Prabhupada's thousands of disciples were initiated via the *ritvik* system without ever having met Srila Prabhupada.

3) Therefore, the physical presence of the spiritual master cannot at all be relevant to initiation.

4) Initiation is not a ceremony. It is a spiritual process which begins with the disciple's serious determination to follow the rules and regulations as laid down by the spiritual master:

"Initiation is a formality. If you are serious, that is real initiation [...] My touch is simply a formality. It is your determination, that is initiation."

(BTG #49, 'Search for the Divine')

The fact that Srila Prabhupada is no longer physically present before us has no bearing on the transcendental process of *diksa*, or initiation. There is nothing in *sastra* (scripture) which states that initiation can only occur when the spiritual master is on the planet. Rather it occurs due to the receipt of transcendental knowledge from Srila Prabhupada, which does not depend on his physical presence:

"This is the purpose of diksa, or initiation. Initiation means receiving the pure knowledge of spiritual consciousness."

(Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-lila, 9.61 purport)

"Reception of spiritual knowledge is never checked by any material condition."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 7.7.1 purport)

1) "How can an initiate-to-be, be assured that Srila Prabhupada is pleased with his sadhana and wants to accept him as his disciple?"

- Govinda Lila Das, Tarkina, Ghana

Editor replies:

Because Srila Prabhupada set up the system whereby he delegated acceptance of future disciples to the *ritviks*, who would accept future disciples providing the Temple President has recommended that the disciple was following. Srila Prabhupada was not involved. This was the system even whilst Srila Prabhupada was on the planet.

2) "Also, if a *ritvik* initiator falls down, how far is the guidance of the aspirant who gets initiated by such a *ritvik* into Srila Prabhupada's care be guaranteed?"

Editor replies:

The *ritvik* is not some special "guide" to the aspirant. He merely accepts the disciple on behalf of Srila Prabhupada. The Guru is, and initiation is actually given by, Srila Prabhupada. Hence the falldown of the *ritvik* cannot affect the initiation, anymore than the subsequent falldown of the Temple President who recommended the devotee for initiation.

3) "I can't just imagine the unlimited karmic reactions Srila Prabhupada has to bear for countless sinful generations."

Editor replies:

We have to obey what Srila Prabhupada actually ordered, not speculate what we think would be best for Srila Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada established himself as the *diksa* Guru for ISKCON, and we must obey him in this regard. He never ordered us to stop him initiating, so why should we stop him?

Email us: irm@iskconirm.com



Official IRM v GBC academic debate

Since the launch of BTP in October 2003, the IRM's academic stature has been firmly established with the publication of scholarly papers and presentations at major international conferences. We can now report on another significant development in this field: the publication of a paperback book where both sides of the IRM-GBC dispute present their cases side-by-side. The book was commissioned and edited by Prof. Dr. Rahul Peter Das of the Institute for Indology and South Asian Studies at the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg in Germany. The impetus for the book is described by Prof. Das in his Introduction as follows:

"I was thus intrigued when I came across an article which appeared to be referring to the possibility of being appointed a guru within ISKCON by a process which could be described as consensual or democratic, since this seemed not to be in keeping with what I had come across so far. [...] Curious to know more, I began researching into the matter, and soon came across the controversy, between the ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) and the Governing Body Commission (GBC), on authority within ISKCON."

The title of the book is *The Rival Positions in the IRM-GBC Controversy within ISKCON*, and is split into two sections, presenting first the position of the IRM followed by that of the GBC. The IRM has prepared a comprehensive response to the GBC chapter (although many of the arguments therein were already anticipated and rebutted in the IRM chapter), and this will be presented in the next issue of BTP. What is particularly interesting to note, however, is that the author whom the GBC have chosen to represent their viewpoint, Krishna Kirti Das (Christopher Shannon), does not himself have complete faith in

The Rival Positions in the IRM-GBC Controversy within ISKCON

Authorised statements by
KRISHNAKANT DESAI
and
CHRISTOPHER SHANNON

the gurus produced by the GBC system, for he writes of his OWN GBC-guru, HH Hridayananda Das Goswami, that he:

"gives a decidedly different definition of illicit sex than what can reasonably be considered Srila Prabhupada's view of illicit sex. His understanding also markedly differs from the GBC resolution in 2001"; and therefore he (Krishna Kirti) is "opposed to some of the ideas he expresses in his essay referred to herein." (Krishna Kirti Das, *Hare Krishna Cultural Journal*, June 16, 2006)

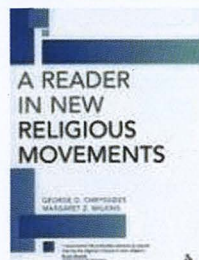
How then can the author expect the reader to have faith in the GBC guru system, when he himself does not even agree with the output of this system - which just happens to be his own GBC guru?! A guru who is supposed to faithfully represent Srila Prabhupada, not have a "decidedly different view" on a fundamental spiritual principle. In this regard, Srila Prabhupada states:

"Any opinion different from the opinion of the spiritual master is useless. One cannot infiltrate materially concocted ideas into spiritual advancement. That is deviation." (Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, *Adi-lila* 12.8-10, purport).

Thus according to the GBC's representative, his own GBC-guru is "useless" and a "deviant". Which is also an apt description for his own paper defending the GBC guru system, as will be seen in the next issue. Which is only to be expected from someone who is himself losing faith in his own GBC-guru.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of this book may contact us via the contact details given on page 2.

New book highlights BTP and The Final Order

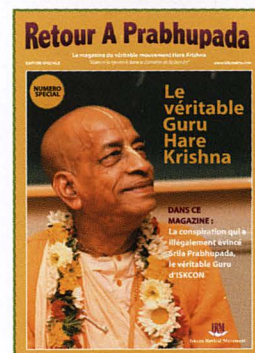


A new book published by the highly renowned international publishing house Continuum Books has dedicated 9 pages to the IRM. *A Reader in New Religious Movements* reproduces verbatim extracts from both *Back to Prabhupada* magazine and the whole of the first section of *The Final Order*. The book is a major academic volume designed for scholars researching into a variety of religious movements in the world today. It is recommended on the jacket cover by Professor Eileen Barker, head of the organisation Information Network Focus on Religious Movements, as "an invaluable resource". The Introduction to the book has this to say regarding the situation in ISKCON following Srila Prabhupada's physical departure:

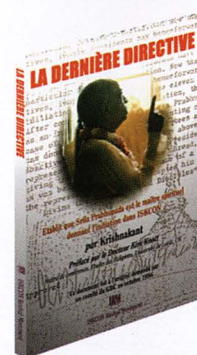
"A Governing Body commission was appointed to exercise wide oversight, while initiations would be performed by 11 initiating gurus, known as ritviks, or representatives of Prabhupada. As will be apparent from the readings, this change of leadership has proved problematic, partly because of a number of scandals involving several ritviks, and partly because of controversy regarding whether subsequent candidates for initiation were to be construed as Prabhupada's own disciples or those of the particular ritvik who performed the initiation. Different factions have emerged within ISKCON and, at the time of writing, the dispute remains unresolved." (Introduction, *A Reader in New Religious Movements*, Continuum International Publishing, 2006)

IRM publishes in European languages

IRM France

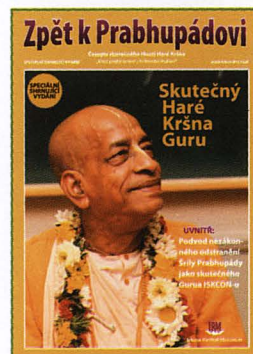


Retour A Prabhupada
(Back to Prabhupada)

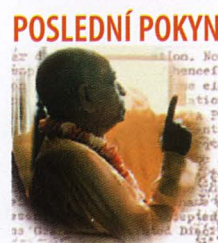


La Dernière Directive
(The Final Order)

IRM Czech Republic



Zpět k Prabhupádovi
(Back to Prabhupada)



Poslední Pokyn
(The Final Order)

'Not authorised by Srila Prabhupada to initiate': HH Bhakti Caru Swami confesses again

In the last issue, we quoted GBC-elected guru HH Bhakti Caru Swami ('BCS') admitting that he himself is not able to take anyone to Krishna, but rather it is Srila Prabhupada who takes one to Krishna:

"Therefore our responsibility is to mediate between you and Srila Prabhupada, and Srila Prabhupada will take you to Krsna." (BCS, Durban disciples' meeting, reported on April 7th, 2006)

Yet another confession was recorded in a recent initiation ceremony in Calcutta, wherein BCS stated:

"I cannot lead you to Krsna." (BCS Istagosthi, March 28th, 2006)

These confessions should be extremely worrying for BCS's disciples and followers, since Srila Prabhupada states: **"It is illegal to become a spiritual master if one is unable to deliver the disciple."** (*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 2.7.7 purport)

Furthermore, BCS also admitted: **"I give initiation because I have been asked to do so. If ISKCON tells me, 'initiate,' I initiate. And if the GBC tells me, 'don't initiate,' I don't initiate."** (BCS Istagosthi, 28th March 2006)

Here BCS confesses that he is completely powerless to function as an "initiating guru" without the sanction of ISKCON's managerial body, the GBC (Governing Body Commission), who can also withdraw his "initiating powers" whenever they see fit! BCS states with reference to the GBC: **"I give initiation because I have been asked to do so"**. Please note that at no point does BCS say he is initiating because Srila Prabhupada has asked him to do, or because Srila Prabhupada authorised him to do so. Rather he admits that this cannot be the case, since his authorisation came not from Srila Prabhupada but from ISKCON via the GBC. This statement from BCS himself alone proves that he is not a bona fide guru, since he admits openly he was not authorised by Srila Prabhupada, as required:

ONLY SRILA PRABHUPADA CAN AUTHORISE INITIATING GURUS

"One should take initiation from a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession, who is authorised by his predecessor spiritual master. This is called diksa-vidhana." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 4.8.54, purport)

"A guru can be guru when he is ordered by his guru. That's all. Otherwise nobody can become guru." (Srila Prabhupada *Bhagavad-gita* Lecture, 28/10/75)

"Self-made guru cannot be guru. He must be authorised by the bona fide guru. Then he's guru. This is the fact...Similarly, bona fide guru means he must be authorised by the superior guru." (Srila Prabhupada *Nectar of Devotion* Lecture, 31/10/72)

So in the last issue we documented how BCS confessed that he cannot take one to Krishna, as a bona fide Guru does, and here he adds yet another, and stronger reason, as to why he is not a bona fide guru: he was not authorised to initiate by Srila Prabhupada.



When the gurus themselves are admitting they are not bona fide – what more evidence is required?!

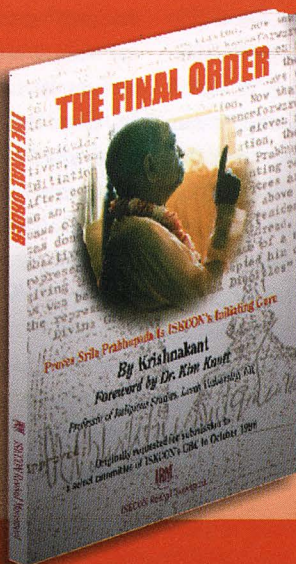
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"I hope this book will be read carefully and discussed widely because the profound issues it raises demand consideration at all levels. Every devotee has a real stake in the matter."

From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK